

BARNSELEY
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(F. J. SADLER, ESQ., M.A., M.B., D.P.H., Oxon)

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1907.

Barnsley :

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1908.



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To

The Barnsley Rural District Council.

Meteorological.

THE year 1907 earned notoriety in the newspapers as a year without a summer. In statistical language there were only 15 hot days when the temperature reached or exceeded 70° Fahrenheit. Of these 2 were in May, 1 in June, 9 in July, and 3 in August. In 1906 there were no fewer than 53 such days, and the average number for the past 39 years is 37·5. Furthermore June was a wet month with 25 days on which rain fell ; while July, though it had a smaller total amount of rain, had no fewer than 20 days on which enough fell to be measured (·01 inch or over). September was the driest month with ·45 inches of rain on 9 days, and fortunate were those who could get in their harvest in September, for October proved the wettest month in the year with 5·28 inches on 24 days.

The days of frost were a little below the average, most of them being in January and February. A short spell of warm weather at Easter (end of March and beginning of April) made the middle part of April, with its north-east winds and corresponding unpleasant cold, very trying to elderly people. November and December were still more unpropitious, short periods of warm weather alternating with rather longer periods of cold weather, so that no one got properly acclimatised to the cold. Probably this was the starting point of the Influenza epidemic which was to become so universal in the first months of 1908. However the ill effects had not culminated before December 31st, so the death-rate for the year, for England, and Wales is the lowest hitherto recorded.

The number of warm days on which 50° Fahrenheit, or more, was registered, was a little above the average, while the earth 4 feet below the surface only reached the critical temperature of 56° on 5 days, as compared with 56 days, the average for 15 years.

Statistics.

The population of your District in the middle of 1907 I estimate to have been 4500 persons, distributed as follows: Carlton 2490, Woolley 1030, Notton 280, Stainbro' 500, and Billingley 200.

As the census year recedes into the past it becomes more and more difficult to estimate the actual population. Possibly a greater increase should be given to Carlton, and something taken off the more rural portions of your district. Probably the estimate is reasonably close, for if I have underestimated the population so as to make the Birth-rate unduly high, then the Death-rate must be phenomenally low, conversely if I have over estimated the population so as to make the death-rate unduly low then the birth-rate must be extraordinarily high.

Coming to the actual figures, there were 129 births and 53 deaths registered in the District; and in addition, there were 2 deaths of residents in your district occurring in public institutions in the Borough of Barnsley. The total number of deaths belonging to the Barnsley Rural District is therefore 55.

The Birth-rate for 1907 is 28·66, and the nett Death-rate is 12·22.

This is the first year since the present Barnsley Rural District was formed that the birth-rate has been less than 30, but even so it is 2 per 1000 higher than that for England and Wales, and 1 per 1000 higher than the birth-rate of the 76 great towns.

On the other hand the death-rate is 2 per 1000 lower than that for Rural England and Wales, and is the 3rd lowest death-rate for your district since 1900.

Supplementary to Table II.* I have prepared once more a table showing the calculated Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Infant Mortality for each Township separately, and for the exclusively rural portion of your District; and also for purposes of comparison the Registrar General's figures for England and Wales and the sub-divisions thereof.

*N.B.—Table II. is necessarily incomplete. Up to and including the year 1900 Births in Carlton, Woolley and Notton, and also in Cudworth (before that Township acquired Urban Powers in March, 1900), were returned by the Registrar monthly *en masse*, with no distinction made. No separate figures therefore are available before 1901 for the *b* columns of the above Townships.

Table I. is incomplete for similar reasons, no separate figures being available for the District as at presented constituted whereby the blank columns might be filled in.

For the first time since this table was compiled, Carlton has the honour of the lowest death-rate of all the five townships, while it maintains its usual position as possessor of the highest birth-rate. As the greater part of the population of Carlton live under the conditions of an Urban District, this death-rate of only 10·44 seems very satisfactory. At the same time it is only fair to say that from a statistical point of view the figures are so small, that the relative position of the townships in this table is largely a matter of chance.

During the year the seven principal Zymotic Diseases caused 4 Deaths; one death being due to Measles and three to Diarrhœa. The zymotic death-rate for the district is therefore only 0·89 per 1000 persons living, or a little less than that for Rural England and Wales (0·91).

14 deaths among infants give an infant mortality of 109 per 1000 births registered, or three more per 1000 than in Rural England and Wales (106).

25 per cent. of all the deaths were among infants, and 34 per cent. among children under five years, figures which I am glad to say compare favourably with the 37 per cent. and 59 per cent. of 1906.

Infectious Diseases.

Of the diseases which come under the Notification Act there were 17 cases reported during the year. 7 of these were cases notified as Scarlet Fever, 8 as Diphtheria, 1 as Puerperal Fever, and 1 as Erysipelas. The case of Puerperal Fever subsequently turned out to be Scarlet Fever acquired during the puerperium, so that really we had 8 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Each case was visited as soon as possible after the receipt of the notification, and the sanitary condition of the premises was investigated. The milk and water supply and the amount of bedroom accommodation were enquired into, and the parents or friends of patients suffering from Scarlet Fever or Typhoid Fever were urged to take advantage of the Kendray Hospital. In cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, any School attended by children from the infected house was warned of the danger of infection, and when the patient had been removed to Hospital, or, if kept at home, had sufficiently recovered, the house was disinfected by a spray of formalin solution, while any clothes or bedding, when necessary, were disinfected by steam in a Thresh Steam Disinfector.

Scarlet Fever.

Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever were in one house on the Wakefield Road in the Notton Township, four others, including the "puerperal fever" case were in two houses at Brick Row, Woolley Colliery, the remaining case was at a house on the Wakefield Road in the Township of Carlton. The four cases at Woolley Colliery were all relations (uncle and aunt, and nephew and niece). All the cases, except the uncle and aunt aforesaid, were removed to the Kendray Hospital, and there was no case of Scarlet Fever reported in your district from October 5th to the end of the year.

Diphtheria.

Of the 8 cases reported as Diphtheria, 6 were at Woolley Colliery, 1 was at Woolley, and 1 at Notton Green. 7 of the eight cases were removed to the Kendray Hospital. Most of the Woolley Colliery cases were of an extremely mild variety. In one case the throat was found to be clear of Diphtheria bacilli within a fortnight of the beginning of the attack.

The Woolley case and the Notton Green case are of some importance. The former was imported, that is to say the child began to be ill immediately after returning from a visit to the neighbourhood of Leeds. The house at Woolley village where this child resides is damp. 12 years ago (in 1895) I investigated an outbreak of Diphtheria in Woolley village, when there were 22 cases with 2 deaths. The one thing all the cases had in common besides personal infection was the fact that they lived in damp houses, and I ventured to make a recommendation that "the dampness of many houses in the village . . . ought to be attended to; as inhabitants of such houses are less resistant to infection than the inhabitants of dry houses." Now in this matter of dampness of the walls of many of the houses in Woolley village little has been done in the past 12 years; and an over-looked case of Diphtheria will give rise to just as serious an epidemic as that of 12 years ago. I foresee that great outcry will again be made, and everything and everybody blamed except those responsible for allowing these houses to remain damp. The houses are not unfit for human habitation, nor are the conditions such as to be a nuisance and injurious to health except in so far as they increase the susceptibility of the children living in them to infectious disease, so I don't see how you can take legal proceedings to enforce the small amount of spade-work that is necessary to make the houses less damp.

The Notton Green case was in one of the thatched houses whose inhabitants up to the present have got their drinking water from the condemned roadside trough. I hope therefore that there will be no undue delay in the arrangements you are making to supply this part of your District with Barnsley water.

Erysipelas.

The one case of Erysipelas at Billingley unfortunately proved fatal, but seems not to have been due in any way to the sanitary condition of the village.

Although there were 5 more cases of notifiable disease than in 1906, the total number 17 is fairly satisfactory, and once more the fact that we were able to isolate promptly in the Kendray Hospital all the Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases except three, of whom two were adults undoubtedly limited the spread of these diseases.

Of the infectious diseases which do not come under the notification act, Measles caused 1 death at Stainbro', and Diarrhœa 2 deaths at Carlton and 1 at Billingley, while there was 1 death from Influenza at Stainbro'.

Measles.

In May Measles became very prevalent among the children attending Hood Green School, Stainbro', and on the 11th of May there were 33 cases among the 106 children on the rolls, so on my advice you closed the school for four weeks to the 8th of June, and at the end of this period of closure the epidemic had abated.

Diarrhœa.

The comparatively cold wet summer seems to have been unfavourable to any great prevalence of Diarrhœa, but in June a child of two succumbed at Carlton, while a baby died in March from the same disease in the same township. So also at Billingley it was in March that a baby died of Diarrhœa, so that this too was outside the summer-autumn Diarrhœa season, and may have been due to other causes than the epidemic diarrhœa organisms.

Influenza.

The death from Influenza was in January, and the age of the victim 75 years. There were 10 other deaths during the year from diseases of the Respiratory Organs, but there was no very definite Influenza epidemic.

Annual Inspection.

The usual systematic annual inspection of the district was made during the year, and the results reported at your monthly meeting. The chief trouble throughout the year has been the unsatisfactory scavenging at Carlton, of which I have frequently had to complain during the year.

The unsatisfactory cottage at Billingley has recently been closed. A scheme for the supply of Barnsley water to Notton Green has been initiated, but is at present hanging fire, the scheme being for the moment with the Notton Parochial Council.* The cottages near Staincross Station have now been supplied with Barnsley water, so that I hope next year to be able to report that all parts of your district have a satisfactory water supply.

The three sewage disposal works, under the supervision of your Inspector, at North Gawber, Woolley Colliery, and Billingley were in good order at the time of my inspection.

Other Sanitary matters.

During 1907, 28 nuisances were reported and all were abated, no legal proceedings being necessary. 19 formal notices to abate nuisances were issued. The other 9 nuisances being abated in consequence of verbal warnings.

Your Inspector of Cowsheds and Milkshops reports :

"There are 17 registered cow keepers and 1 milk shop in the Barnsley Rural District 172 milk cows are kept in cow sheds with accommodation for 266 cows. Three cows or heifers have been slaughtered suffering from tuberculosis, but none of these was supplying milk at the time. Several other cows have been more or less affected by drinking sewage-polluted water at Billingley, at Carlton, and at Stainbro'."

Your Inspector of Canal Boats reports :

"98 canal boats have been inspected during 1907. All of these are registered outside the district. The 98 boats were registered to carry 429 persons. Their actual occupants were 124 men, 31 women and 9 children. None of the children were of school age. All the children were clean, well-nourished and free from infectious disease. The cleanly condition of the living cabins on the boats compares favourably with that of the majority of cottage houses."

Factories, Workshops, &c. There are no factories or workshops in your District known to H.M. Inspector of Factories, nor have we been able to discover any.

Conclusion.

The year 1907 has been a healthy one, and your District has remained free from any serious amount of Infectious Disease. Your neighbours also are endeavouring to improve the sewage effluents of which we have so

* This scheme is now before the L.G.B. awaiting official approval,
Mar. 5th, 1908.

often had to complain. I am anxious to get the remaining serious defects in your district out of the way in the coming year. for after that there are certain to be questions of amelioration arising in respect of the children medically examined at the elementary schools during 1908. After all, the progress made in your district is sure, if at times it seems to be a little slow.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. SADLER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H., Oxon.,

Medical Officer of Health.

BARNSELY,

Mar. 5th, 1908.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, attention has been given to the notes on the tables.
F. J. SADLER, Medical Officer of Health.
5th March, 1908.

TABLE 1.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1907 and Previous Years.
Barnsley Rural District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.			Deaths at all Ages, Nett.	
		Number	Rate*	Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond District.	Number	Rate*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered			
1897	3,820			24				
1898	3,790			20				
1899	3,800			13				
1900	3,800			28	202.89	1	68	17.89
1901	4,044	138	36.31	20	139.86	3	67	16.57
1902	4,120	144	34.95	23	159.72	2	71	17.23
1903	4,240	133	32.28	23	172.93	3	64	15.09
1904	4,400	149	33.86	20	134.22	4	70	15.45
1905	4,400	134	30.45	13	97.01	2	51	11.59
1906	4,450	140	31.01	20	142.85	1	54	12.13
Aver- ages for 10 yrs., 1897- 1906	4,086.4			20.4				
				60.7	15.01			
1907	4,500	129	28.66	14	108.51	2	55	12.22

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
Area of District (exclusive of area covered by water, 9,748 acres.
Total population at all ages ... 4,044
Number of inhabited houses ... 737
Average number of persons per house ... 5.4
} at census of 1901.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
NONE.	1. Barnsley Union Workhouse Infirmery. 2. Beckett Hospital, Barnsley. 3. Kendray Hospital for Infec- tious Diseases, Ardsley. 4. Lund Wood Hospital for Small-pox, Monk Bretton. 5. Royal Infirmery, Sheffield.	NONE

Deaths have occurred among persons from the District in 1 and 5 of above.

Before 1900 Cudworth was included in this District, and all the figures available before that year, but not appearing in this table, include the Cudworth statistics.

TABLE 2.

Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1907 and previous years.

Barnsley Rural District.

Names of Localities.	CARLTON.				WOOLLEY.				NOTTON.				STAINBROUGH.				BILLINGLEY.			
Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1897 ..	1,900		35	15	970		11	5	280		2	1	450	12	5	0	220	7	5	3
1898 ..	1,900		39	14	970		8	5	270		2	0	450	9	13	1	200	8	1	0
1899 ..	1,920		28	7	950		14	4	270		3	0	460	15	9	2	200	6	4	0
1900 ..	1,920		46	23	950		11	2	270		2	0	460	11	8	3	200	6	0	0
1901 ..	2,086	85	37	14	1,008	28	12	3	262	8	7	1	490	13	6	1	198	5	0	0
1902 ..	2,129	87	39	14	1,028	32	13	4	273	8	4	0	490	11	7	2	200	6	5	1
1903 ..	2,240	86	43	17	1,030	24	6	3	280	4	6	1	490	11	3	1	200	8	6	3
1904 ..	2,400	87	36	12	1,030	30	14	2	280	8	6	2	490	15	12	2	200	9	2	2
1905 ..	1,400	83	33	10	1,030	27	8	1	280	6	3	1	490	12	4	1	200	6	3	0
1906 ..	2,440	85	29	13	1,030	30	17	6	280	9	4	0	500	10	3	1	200	6	1	0
Averages of Years 1897 to 1906	2133·5		36·5	13·9	999·6		11·4	3·5	274·5		3·9	0·6	477	11·9	7	1·4	201·8	7	3·5	1
1907 ..	2,490	84	26	7	1,030	22	12	2	280	5	3	1	500	13	9	2	200	5	5	2

TABLE 2a.

1907.	Annual Rates per 1,000 persons living.			Deaths of Children under 1 year per 1,000 births registered.
	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from 7 chief Zymotic Diseases.	
England and Wales ...	26·3	15	1·26	118
76 Great Towns ...	27·0	15·4	1·54	127
141 Smaller Towns ...	25·7	14·5	1·29	122
Rural England and Wales	25·6	14·7	0·91	106
Barnsley Rural District ...	28·66	12·22	0·89	109
The same without Carlton	22·38	14·42	0·99	156
Carlton ...	33·73	10·44	0·80	83
Woolley ...	21·35	11·65	nil.	91
Notton ...	17·85	10·70	nil.	200
Stainborough ...	26	18	2·00	154
Billingley ...	25	25	5·00	400

TABLE 4,
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1907.
Parnsley Rural District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of " Residents " whether occurring in or beyond the District.						Deaths at all ages of "Residents " belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.					
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	Carlton	Woolley.	Notton.	Stainbrough.	Billingley.
Measles	1	1					1				1	
Epidemic Influenza	1		1					2			1	1
Diarrhoea	3	2				1						
Erysipelas	1		1					1				
Other tubercular diseases	1					2	1	1				
Cancer, malignant disease	3	2	1			1	3	1	2		2	
Bronchitis	7		1					4	1		1	
Pneumonia	1		1				1		2			
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	2					1						
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	2					2	2	1	2		1	
Heart diseases... ..	6					4		4	2			
Accidents	2	1					1		2			
Suicides... ..	1		2	1	1	2				1		
All other causes	24	8					10	13	3	2	3	3
All causes	55	14	6	1	2	13	19	26	12	3	9	5

TABLE 5.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1907.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of age.
Barnsley Rural District.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Measles ...									1		1		1
	Diarrhoea, all forms ...									1				1
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal											1		1
	Catarrh ...													1
Wasting Diseases	Premature Birth ...		1			1								1
	Congenital Defects ...			1		1								1
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1			1	2					1			3
Other Causes	Convulsions ...				1	1		1	1					2
	Bronchitis ...				1	1				1				2
	Suffocation, overlaying ...						1							1
	Other causes...									1				1
		1	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	14

District (or sub-division) of Barnsley Rural District. Population. Estimated to middle of 1907, 4500.

Births in the Year } legitimate 127.
 } illegitimate 2.

Deaths in the year of } legitimate Infants 14.
 } illegitimate infants nil.

Deaths from **all causes at all ages** 55.